

REMARKS

Applicants received a Notice to Comply, dated April 13, 2005, which indicates that the Amendment filed on March 28, 2003 "has not been entered because it is unsigned." Applicants respectfully submit that the Amendment submitted on March 28 was properly executed via an S-signature in accordance with Patent Office practice. See 37 C.F.R. 1.4(d)(2), a copy of which is attached herein, which specifically states "[c]orrespondence being filed in the Office in paper... may be S-signature signed instead of being personally signed... as provided for in paragraph (d)(1) of this section." "An S-signature is a signature inserted between forward slash marks, but not a handwritten signature as defined by §1.4(d)(1)." 37 C.F.R. 1.4(d)(2). Thus, an S-signature is an appropriate means of corresponding with the U.S. Patent Office and the Notice to Comply is moot.

Applicants further submit that Applicants filing should not constitute a delay when determining patent term adjustment in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.701 et seq.

Early consideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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